இணைப்பு I

(172-ம் பக்கத்திலுள்ள அடிக்குறிப்பைக் காண்க.)

Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

I am happy to welcome you all to this session in the New Year.

2. At the outset, I would like to extend my hearty welcome to the new Government at the Centre. I am sure that the new Union Government would take steps to gain the confidence and co-operation of the States and also to help them in discharging their duties to the people. I consider it appropriate to recall here the views of the Government of Tamil Nadu expressed in the Governor's Address after a new Government was formed at the Centre in 1977 :—

> "........my Government will extend its constructive co-operation, based on Anna's philosophy, to the Centre in their efforts for building up a democratic, socialistic and prosperous India on Gandhian lines. At the same time, we shall take every opportunity to strongly advocate the claims of Tamil Nadu, whether they relate to political, cultural, economic or linguistic issues, with a view to ensure that the legitimate rights and interests of our State and of our people obtain due recognition and response from the Centre. ....It is now being increasingly recognised that the Centre can be strong, only if the States are also strengthened. We trust that the imbalances in our Federal Constitution in this regard will be rectified at an early date through appropriate Constitutional amendments and we shall support all efforts in this direction. We are also confident that with more powers we can make rapid progress in our efforts for improving the development and welfare of Tamil Nadu."

3. The decision of the Central Government to implement the 20-Point Programme as indicated in the President's address deserves praise. Members are well aware that the party in power in Tamil Nadu welcomed this programme even at the time of its announcement earlier and effectively propagated it among the people. In particular, the scheme was instrumental in abolishing the bonded labour in Tamil Nadu. To implement this programme in a proper manner this Government will extend all its support to the Union Government.

4. I would like to mention with pride, the peaceful manner in which the recent Parliamentary elections were conducted in Tamil Nadu. On behalf of the Government. I express my happiness about the emergence of the desire for safeguarding our democratic traditions and for protecting the rights of the electorate.

5. The Government took speedy and timely measures with a sense of dedication in giving relief to the people affected by the recent heavy floods in many districts of our State. many social service organisations and students' organisations also played an active role in these relief a measures. Many lives have been saved on account of the proper precautionary steps and the extension of immediate relief. On our request, the Central Government sent a team to assess the quantum of assistance for relief measures. The Government of Tamil Nadu would like to thank the Government of India for announcing the Central assistance on the basis of this Committee's report. It is really commendable that the State Government acted promptly by ordering relief measures allocating substantial funds, without waiting for the decision of the Central Government on the quantum of assistance.

6. On account of the write-off of the Takkavi loans ordered by the State Government, 8·51 lakh agricultural families have benefited. The Government has already given an assistance of Rs. 16 crores to the Co-operative Banks to enable them to pass on the benefits announced earlier by the Government to the ryots. The Central Co-operative Banks were not able to obtain financial assistance from the Reserve Bank of India in view of the heavy overdue positions. As a result, even those who have repaid their loans were not able to get further loans from the co-operatives. To obviate this difficulty, the Tamil Nadu Government has given an assistance of Rs. 27·5 crores to nine Central Banks. This will enable those who have repaid the loan to get further loans from the co-operatives. I am sure that the Members will welcome this measure.

7. The food situation in Tamil Nadu continues to be comfortable. There is no compulsory procurement either directly from the ryots or through a levy on the traders. A number of direct procurement centres are being run by the Civil Supplies Corporation on behalf of the State Government. In these centres, paddy has been purchased from the ryots at the rate of Rs. 105 per quintal, which is higher than the price notified by Government of India. All the villages have been covered under the 'one-village-one-shop' scheme of this Government and these shops are functioning well. When there was the likelihood of a sugar shortage recently, Government took immediate steps to ensure distribution of sugar for family cards throughout the State, The crisis was success fully averted in view of the timely measures taken by the State Government.

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8. It is necessary to keep the prices of agricultural inputs under control so as to keep the cost of cultivation at reasonable levels. At the same time it is necessary to ensure proper and steady prices for agricultural commodities. Appropriate floor prices for essential agricultural produces, should also be fixed so that there is incentive for the ryots to cultivate them confidently. It is inescapable that the Government of India take steps to procure and maintain buffer stocks in many such commodities Such an arrangement is at present available for rice and wheat. I request that the Government of India take steps to extend the arrangement to cover other major agricultural commodities as well. Though it may not be possible to write-off the entire co-operative and other loans, when the ryots are unable to repay them on account of the repeated failures of the monsoon, it is imperative that the Central Government evolves a National policy to give suitable relief for such agriculturists and also take steps to create necessary fund for this purpose. At this juncture I would like to welcome the statement of the President of India in his recent address to the Parliament:

"It will be the Government's endeavour to ensure proper remunerative prices to the farmer for his produce."

It is hoped that the Central Government would take early steps to implement this policy. The State Government has drawn up a massive scheme to enlarge the facilities in the regulated markets at a cost of about Rs. 100 crores so that the ryots are encouraged to increase the sale of their produce though the regulated markets. This scheme has been forwarded to the Government of India for being posed to the World Bank. Further, with the concurrence of the Government of India, an amendement to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Markets Act will be brought before the House.

9. In this Session, a Bill will be brought forward to prohibit purchase of lands of scheduled tribes by non-tribals. Government recently promulgated an Ordinance reducing the ceiling on land held by tenants to three standard acres from five standard acres. Government is of the opinion that by this measure, concentration of large extent of lands with some tenants will get reduced and the tenancy of lands would get distsibuted among the landless poor. A Bill to replace this Ordinance will be brought before the House.

10. Speedy steps will be taken up to develop the forest wealth of this State. The Government will be vigilant in prevention of illegal felling and smuggling of trees and in punishing the offenders severely.

11. Tamil Nadu has been in the forfront in utilising water resources. Our State has utilised the surface water fully. The State has exploited its ground water potential to a substantial extent and in fact in certain areas there has been over-exploitation. The Government will continue to hold talks with neighbouring States on the utilisation of their surplus waters. Such utilisation will not only increase agricultural production in the country but also create employment in drought prone areas.

12. It is well known that only by proper industrial development, the Nation can become strong. It is seen from the particulars given below that the Central investment in Tamil Nadu has been dwindling in the past few years as compared to other parts of the country:—

CENTRAL INVESTMENT.

	All India.	*Tamil Nadu.*	*Percentage.*
	(RUPEES IN CRORES).		
Upto 1969-70	3,885	312	8
Up to 1976-77	11,451	476	4

Tamil Nadu's share of Central investment upto 1969-70 was 8 per cent, where as it has come down to 4 per cent by 1976-77. Tamil Nadu is a State having very high percentage of population below the poverty line the number of unemployed is also very high in Tamil Nadu, These two major problems of our State can be tackeld by the Centre, increasing its direct investment and taking other appropriate policy decisions to encourage industrial development. I would like to request the Union Government to take steps to reduce regional imbalances by investing large amounts in Tamil Nadu. The first phase of the Salem Steel Project for which the foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister should be completed speedily. Further, the other phases of setting up the Salem integrated steel plant shuld be expedited so as to give an impetus for industrial development in this region.

13. Tamil Nadu Government continues to encourage small industries and cottage industries. The Government is implementing a new scheme of capital subsidy to small scale industries to be set up in 24 backward taluks. Recently, the Government has ordered that Government departments and public sector undertakings must purchase their requirements in respect of 241 articles from small industries only. The Government has also initiated a new scheme

for equity assistance to revitalise sick small industries. During this year, as against the target of setting up 2,000 match units, steps have been taken for establishing 2,600 such units. During full production, these units will provide employment opportunities for 52,000 persons. Members may recall the decision of Government to give fillip to sericulture industry by expandng cultivation of mulberry over 8,000 acres. As against this targeted rea, about 7,000 acres have been covered by November 1979 and it is estimated that by the end of the financial year 10,000 acres will be covered. As announced in my last address active steps are being taken to establish the Soda Ash Plant by Tuticorin Alkali Chemical Limited, which is expected to go into production by early 1982. The implement the Government's decision to produce paper from bagasse a Public Sector Corporation has been set up and preliminary steps are being taken.

14. Apart from being the State capital, Madras City functions as commercial hub of and the gateway to the South. The Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing various schemes for the development of Madras Metropolitan area. Steps have been taken for the clearance for the second stage of the World Bank aided Urban Development Project at a cost of Rs. 57 crores even while implementing the first stage of the Project. I would like to reitrate here that the Mass Rapid Transport System is the only solution to solve the traffic proble of the City. It would be my strong plea with the Union Government that the work on this scheme should be commenced atleast in the coming year. I would like to point out that as years go by, apart from the problems getting complicated, the cost would also increase. The Central Government must also take steps to convert the metre gauge railway line from Madras to Tuticorin to broad gauge. Only by this step, it would be possible for the country to draw the full benefits of the Tuticorin Port and also develop the industrially backward areas on this route.

15. This year, the self-sufficiency scheme for providing basic amenities in an integrated manner has been started in 5 blocks in every district, It is proposed to expand the scheme and implement it in 100 more blocks in the coming year.

16. The centrally assisted Food for Work Programme should be expanded further to create more job opportunities. It is my wish that the Tamil Nadu Government which is implementing this scheme successfully, should be further encouraged by the Government of India by larger allocation of rice. Members will be happy to know that the Employment Guarantee Scheme announced by this Government is being implemented vigorously.

17. In this State Mobile Medical Units have been rendering a good service. It is proposed to enlarge this scheme. Government will also set up specialities like Cardiology in hospitals of the small towns.

18. In Higher Secondary Schools, Vocational Education is being taught in a commendable manner. The Government will take steps to raise its standard and to provide laboratory facilties and equipments to these schools. This Government considers that at the school education stage itself. students should obtain necessary work experience and that they should get trained in vocations useful to the society. To achieve this, vocational education will be introduced in high schools in stages.

19. The Members may be aware of the interest taken by the State Government in promoting sports activities and the setting up of a separate Directorate of Sports and Youth Services. Schemes for Physical Education will be expanded significantly in the coming year. The students will be given special training to enable them to act as a protective force for the society, whenever necessary.

20. In my last address, I informed the House that a scheme for construction of one lakh houses in rural area will be implemented over a period of five years. I am happy to state that this scheme is making good progress. As against the targeted number of 20,000 houses, steps have been taken for construction of 30,000 houses. Till now, applications for loans for 38,000 houses have been sanctioned. Government is taking steps to expand the scheme with necessary assistance from HUDCO and other financial institutions.

21. This State is very keen to promote the welfare of Harijans and also to see that full protection is available to them. All necessary steps are being taken in this direction.

22. It is a matter of satisfaction that all the Harijan colonies in the State have been electrified. Government will immediately take up a special scheme to provide other basic amenties like drinking water supply, link roads pathway to burial ground to all the Harijan Colonies. This Harijan colonies Development Programme' will be imp-lemented in 5,000 colonies in the coming year. Steps will also be undertaken to construct permanent buildings for all Government Harijan Welfare School buildings in the next year.

23. It is proposed to enact a Legislation on Debt Relief to safeguard the interests of the poor people in Rural and Urban areas, who suffer befm a heavy debt burden. Necessary Bill for this purpose will be placed before the House in this Session.

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24. Government is preparing a Bill for rendering assistance to those who suffered for the cause of Tamil language and for the merger of Tamil-speaking areas with Tamil Nadu. This will be brought before the Legislature soon.

25. My Government proposes to hold talks with the Government of Kerala on the Kannagi temple near Kerala border. Flowing from the fruitful results of the talks, I hope necessary facilities for people to visit the temple will get developed. The State Archaeology Depart ment will conduct excavations and research at this place and many other places. Historic places will be developed into tourist spots with necessary facilities for both Indian and foreign tourists. This wil result in increased foreign exchange earnings and creation of job opportunities.

26. The Government will take all steps to improve the administration of religious and charitable endowments. In particular, steps will be taken up to fulfil the objectives and desires of the persons who have created such endowments.

27. A settlement with Trade Unions under section 12 (3) of Industrial Disputes Act is binding on all workers. As per this provision, it is now possible, even for Trade Unions which do not represent the majority of the workers, to conclude such a settlement. It is proposed to bring a Bill to make it clear that a settlement under section 12 (3) of the Industrial Disputes Act or a strike notice will be binding on everyone only if it is approved by Unions representing a majority of the workers belonging to Trade Unions.

28. The Members are aware that the Government has announced the conduct of elections to Panchayats, Panchayat Unions, Municipalities and Madras Corporation. It is proposed to bring amendments for reducing the age of voting to 18 and amendments, providing for reservation of adequate seats to women and Harijans.

29. Government has recently announced a scheme for utilising the services of ex-servicemen for providing security in the City. This scheme will be enlarged to cover more areas. It is proposed to station ploice force in border areas of the State, to assist maintenance of law and order and also to prevent offences like encroachment and smuggling of forest produce.

30. This Government which has been effecting many administrative reforms, proposes to abolish the Board of Revenue and appoint independent Heads of department. I would like to inform the Members that speedy steps will be taken to implement this decision.

31. From the days of Perarignar Anna, an opinion has been widely held that a University should be established at Karaikudi. The Government will address the University Grants Commission emphasising the need for this University.

32. The Tamil Nadu Legislature has a hoary tradition of offering constructive suggestions to the Government and maintaining its decorum. I am sure that the Members would extend their full co-operation for conducting the current session also in the same tradition.

33. I wish all the members good luck in the service of the **people** of Tamil Nadu. Let us all work together to see that poverty **and unemployment** are ended as early as possible.

Vanakkam.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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